THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) The UN-Convention against Torture has not yet been adopted by India and some other developing countries.

(b) This issue was discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 5th May, 1995. Most of the Chief Ministers were either not infavour of India becoming a signatory to the Convention or were in favour with reservation on certain clauses the Convention.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Artificial Recharge of Ground Water

*292. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared and published the 'Manual of Artificial recharge of ground water';

(b) if so, when and how many copies of the Manual have been sold;

(c) to what extent recharge has been effective after the Manual came into vogue; and

(d) Government's plans for more effective ground water recharge?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not a priced publication. One thousand copies of Manual had been printed in 1994 out of which 350 copies have been circulated for use, mostly among State and Central Government agencies.

(c) Manual only provides guideline in the formulation of recharge schemes.

(d) A Central Sector Scheme of model studies in Recharge of Ground Water prepared by Central Ground Water Board is under implementation. Besides, a Centrally Sponsored scheme to assist states in recharging Ground Water is at consultation stage with concerned agencies.

Waiting List of Telephones in Delhi

*293. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections till date in Delhi;

(b) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared; and

(c) by when the telephone connections are likely to be available on demand?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections as on 1st July, 1996 is 51,165.

(b) Progressive reduction occurs with addition of more capacity.

(c) It is planned to provided in Delhi 2,50,000 telephone connections during 1996—97. Telephone connections in Delhi may become available on demand by 1997 except in some areas due to technical nonfeasibility.

Cable Ducting in Metropolitan Cities

*294. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the cable ducting in KMs completed so far in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras;

(b) the year-wise break-up of the above, in each city during the last three years;

(c) the year-wise funds allocated for the above cities;